

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 2~~ A system for treating bone fractures, the system comprising:

an intramedullary nail defining a longitudinal opening, a longitudinal axis, and a first intersecting transverse opening, said first transverse opening having an upper surface and a lower surface, and a second intersecting transverse opening, said second transverse opening having an upper surface and a lower surface;

a transverse member including a bone engaging portion and a connection shaft, said connection shaft being sized to pass through at least one of said first and said second said transverse openings, wherein said connection shaft is pivotally joined to said bone engaging portion; and

a set screw selectively attached to said nail in said longitudinal opening and movable along said longitudinal axis to rigidly assemble said transverse member to said nail when said connection shaft passes through one of said transverse openings and said set screw is received within said longitudinal opening.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4 3 wherein said transverse member further includes a connection portion extending between said connection shaft and said bone engaging portion.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4 3 wherein said connection shaft includes a leading portion and a trailing portion, one of said leading portion and said trailing portion includes a ball member and another of said leading portion and said trailing portion includes a socket member, said ball and socket members cooperating to permit angular variation between said leading portion and said trailing portion.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 wherein said connection portion is adapted to slidably receive said bone engaging portion.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 wherein said bone engaging portion includes a keeper, said connection portion includes an inner retaining lip, said keeper co-acting with said retaining lip to provisionally maintain said bone engaging portion and said connection portion in sliding engagement.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 3 wherein said longitudinal opening extends at least partially therethrough and intersects said first and said second transverse [opening] openings, a portion of said longitudinal passageway being threaded to engage said set screw, said set screw including a stem portion adapted to be slidably received within said longitudinal passageway to lockingly engage said connection shaft.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 3 wherein said lower surface of said first transverse opening defines a first angled portion to engage said connection shaft in an abutting relationship with said connection shaft oriented at a first oblique angle relative to said longitudinal axis.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11 wherein said upper surface of said first transverse opening defines a second angled portion generally opposite said first angled portion to engage said connection shaft when said connection shaft is oriented at said first oblique angle.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein said first and second oblique angles are each about 135 degrees.

Claims 16–48 (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) A system for treating bone fractures, the system comprising:
an intramedullary nail defining a longitudinal axis, said nail defining an elongated, transverse opening laterally extending therethrough, and a longitudinal passage intersecting said opening;
a bone engaging member sized to pass through said transverse opening; and
a positioning device disposed in said longitudinal passage, the position of said device being adjustable along the longitudinal axis of said nail to move said bone engaging member passing through said transverse opening and compress or distract said bone fracture.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 wherein said positioning device includes a first portion and a second portion, said first portion being configured to rotate to adjust the position of said second portion along the longitudinal axis of said nail, said second portion being configured to move in correspondence with the rotation of said first portion and bear against said bone engaging member.

51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50 wherein said first portion includes a first threaded portion, said second portion including a second threaded portion, and wherein said second portion is transferred along the longitudinal axis of said nail as said first portion threadedly engages said second portion.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50 wherein said nail defines a threaded wall about said longitudinal passage, said first portion including a threaded portion to engage said threaded wall, and wherein said second portion is transferred along the longitudinal axis of said nail as said threaded portion threadedly engages said threaded wall and said first portion engages said second portion.

53. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 43 wherein said lower surface of said second transverse opening defines a first angled portion to engage said connection shaft in an abutting relationship with said connection shaft oriented at a first oblique angle relative to said longitudinal axis.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53 wherein said upper surface of said second transverse opening defines a second angled portion generally opposite said first angled portion to engage said connection shaft when said connection shaft is oriented at said first oblique angle.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 54 wherein said first and second oblique angles are each about 135 degrees.